

Message Text

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70

ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 AGR-05 INT-05

CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 FMC-01

SWF-01 /080 W

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P R 162300Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3708

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, EC

SUBJECT: GOE POLICIES REGARDING FOREIGN FISHING

REF: A) STATE 273065; B) QUITO 8555

1. CHARGE CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSECRETARY VALDEZ AFTERNOON DECEMBER 16, TO DISCUSS ECUADOR'S NEW FISHING REGULATIONS. AS POINTED OUT REF B, THESE REGULATIONS WERE PROMULGATED LATE LAST WEEK AND WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN COMPLETE DRAFT. VALDEZ CONFIRMED THAT REGULATIONS, WHICH GO INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1975, WILL PROHIBIT AS OF THAT DATE THE GRANTING OF LICENSES TO TUNA FISHING SEINERS OF MORE THAN 600 NET REGISTERED TONS. REGULATIONS ALSO RESERVE FOR ECUADOREAN AND ASSOCIATED FISHING BOATS A 40 MILE COASTAL ZONE.

2. CHARGE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT VALDEZ HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH HIM PRIOR TO PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, FOR THE RECORD, CHARGE
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MADE ORALLY ALL THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REF A, INCLUDING

THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GOE MIGHT RECONSIDER THE LIMITATION OR AT LEAST RAISE THE TONNAGE.

3. VALDEZ RESPONDED BY SAYING IN EFFECT THAT THE REGULATIONS WERE NOW PROMULGATED AND THEY COULD NOT BE CHANGED. HE SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW THE TONNAGE LIMITATION HAD BEEN INCLUDED FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES BECAUSE ECUADOR WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT FOREIGN FISHERMEN COULD BE DEPENDED UPON TO LIMIT THEIR CATCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IATTC. SMALLER BOATS, HE SAID, COULD NATURALLY HOLD FEWER FISH PER TRIP. HE ASKED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE CHARGE STRESS TO WASHINGTON THAT THESE TWO NEW PROVISIONS WOULD NOT APPLY TO FISHING VESSELS WHICH FISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH ECUADOREAN FIRMS. HE STATED THAT THE PROVISION FOR CONFISCATION WAS INDEED NEW BUT THAT HE EXPECTED ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES TO CARRY OUT THIS PROVISION OF NEW REGULATIONS IN CASE OF NEED.

4. VALDEZ WITH A SLIGHT SMILE COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON THE U.S. SENATE'S ACTION WITH RESPECT TO A 200 MILE FISHING ZONE. THE CHARGE REPEATED THAT THIS WAS NOT U.S. POLICY AND THAT THE USG OFFICIALLY CONSIDERED THAT UNILATERAL CLAIMS WITH RESPECT TO COASTAL WATERS WOULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT AN ULTIMATE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH WE HOPED TO SEE PERHAPS NEXT YEAR.

5. COMMENT: INASMUCH AS NONE OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE GOE SAW FIT THIS TIME TO DISCUSS WITH US WITH SUFFICIENT LEAD-TIME IN ANY DETAIL THE DRAFT REGULATIONS BEFORE THEY WERE PROMULGATED, IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF BEING DISSUADED FROM TAKING THIS ACTION. IT IS POSSIBLY THEIR HOPE THAT THE LARGER FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS, FEARING CONFISCATION OF CATCH, INDEED WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO FISH IN ECUADOR'S CLAIMED WATERS.
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